

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Remarks concerning amendments to claims

Of claims 1-39, claims 10 and 26 are now cancelled, with claims 7, 12, and 15 having been previously cancelled. Claims 1 and 26 are currently amended.

Response to rejections

In the most recent Action, claims 1-6, 8-9, 26, 29-36 and 39 were rejected as being unpatentable over the cited art. Specifically, claims 1-6 and 8-9 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious in view of Anderson (2003/0158668), Griffin (US 5265173), and Bloedorn (US 2002/0152208). Claims 26, 29-36 and 39 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious in view of Anderson, Griffin, Boedorn, and Fortin (US 2005/0137994).

In addition, however, the examiner indicated in the Action that claims 11, 13-14, and 16-25 are allowed, and that claims 10, 27-28, and 37-38 are directed to allowable subject matter. Applicant responds by amending independent claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of allowable claim 10 (which is hereby cancelled), and amending independent claim 26 to incorporate the limitations of allowable claim 38 (which is hereby cancelled). Consequently, independent claims 1 and 26 are amended to be directed to allowable subject matter, as are all their dependent claims. Thus, all claims 1-6, 8-9, 11, 13-14, 16-37, and 39 are submitted as being allowed or allowable, and the application is now in a state for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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